

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Final Office Action dated October 18, 2005, has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 7 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,613,599 to Imaeda in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,862,153 to Nakatani. Claims 2-6 and 8-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Imaeda in view of Nakatani and further in view of U.S. Patent 6,160,605 to Murayama. Claims 11-14, 16, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Imaeda in view of Nakatani and further in view of U.S. Patent 5,838,412 to Ueda.

The rejection of claims 1-17 is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. Claims 1-17 are allowable over the cited references in that each of these claims recites a combination of elements including, for example, “a film connected to the liquid crystal panel with a drive integrated circuit that drives the liquid crystal panel mounted thereon, wherein the drive integrated circuit is disposed on the film facing the front surface of the main support.” None of the cited references including Imaeda, Nakatani, Murayama, and Ueda, singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. The structure of claim 1 of the present invention is different from the Imaeda structure in that Imaeda does not disclose or suggest a “drive integrated circuit is disposed on the film facing the front surface of the main support”.

The Examiner acknowledges that Imaeda does not disclose the details of the frame and the support (Office Action, page 2). Thus, Imaeda cannot disclose or suggest the positional

relationship between the drive integrated circuit and these support members as is recited in claim 1. Furthermore, the Examiner cites a separate and alternate embodiment disclose in Imaeda, that of Figure 16, as showing via reference numeral 2010 a main support analogous to the element of Applicants' claim 1.

Applicants respectfully disagree. First, the reference 2010 refers to the case body, not a main support (Imaeda, col. 18, line 25). In addition, any drive circuit in the embodiment illustrated in Figure 16 placed within case body 2010 cannot be "facing the front surface of the main support", because the front surface of the case body is located outside and facing away from the interior region of the device in which the drive circuit is located. Finally, the embodiment illustrated in Figure 16 is presented without any mention of the position of the drive IC relative to any surface of any main support. In addition, it is unlikely that Imaeda's embodiments shown in Figures 11 and 12 could be applied to the device of Figure 16, because the latter device has considerable size and other physical constraints that would dictate the placement of circuitry, including drive circuitry, within that device. Because Imaeda does not teach or suggest whether, how, or why a "drive integrated circuit is disposed on the film facing the front surface of the main support", it would not be possible to combine these embodiments.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 and claims 2-17, which depend from claim 1, are allowable over the cited references.

Applicants believe the foregoing arguments place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps

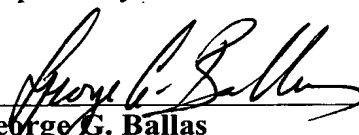
necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. *A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.*

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: January 18, 2006

By


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